

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bryson et al. (US 3,733,947).

Claim 21 has been added.

Reconsideration of the application based on the following is respectfully requested

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 to 5 and 7 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bryson et al. (US 3,733,947).

Bryson is discussed in the application, and discloses a front table 88 which reciprocates via rocker links 92 and 93. (See col. 7, line 67 et seq. of Bryson). Pushers 72 are attached to a carriage 73 mounted on guide tracks 74. The carriage 73 and pusher 72 reciprocate horizontally along guide tracks 74, and a cam 85 reciprocates the guide tracks 74. (See col. 6, line 67 et seq.). Backstops 133 are described at col. 10, line 46 et seq.

Claim 1 of the present invention recites:

“a pusher element movable relative to a front table of the sheet material article trimmer and configured to move a sheet material article to be trimmed on the front table and into engagement with a backstop of the front table” and

“a driver configured to move the pusher element at a same speed as the front table for a period of time with the pusher element in engagement with a first edge portion of the sheet material article and the backstop in engagement with a second edge portion of the sheet material article, the period of time being at least as long as a time required for a front clamp of the sheet material article trimmer to move through a distance corresponding to a difference in thickness between a thinnest sheet material article in a range of thicknesses and a thickest sheet material article in the range of thicknesses so as to grip the sheet material article against the front table.”

Bryson clearly does not disclose or teach both a pusher element movable relative to the front table and a driver moving the pusher element at a same speed as the front table for a time at least as long as a time required for a front clamp to move through a distance corresponding to the thickness differences recited in claim 1 of the present application.

The pusher element and the front table in Bryson, due to its construction, can only move at a same speed for an instantaneous point in time. Anticipation requires that each element of the claim be met. Bryson does not teach or show “a driver configured to move the pusher element at a same speed as the front table for a period of time with the pusher element in engagement with a first edge portion of the sheet material article and the backstop in engagement with a second edge portion of the sheet material article, the period of time being at least as long as a time required for a front clamp of the sheet material article trimmer to move through a distance corresponding to a difference in thickness between a thinnest sheet material article in a range of thicknesses and a thickest sheet material article in the range of thicknesses so as to grip the sheet material article against the front table.”

The Office Action seems to assert that claim 1, section d of Bryson, which states “a driving means for driving said means for conveying and said means for pushing at a selected speed” means that these the pusher element and the table are always driven at the same speed.

This is not the case, but were it so, the claim limitation in claim 1 of the present application of “a pusher element movable relative to a front table of the sheet material article trimmer and configured to move a sheet material article to be trimmed on the front table and into engagement with a backstop of the front table” would not be met. If it is the Office Action position that the pusher element and the table are always driven at the same speed, then the pusher element of Bryson cannot move with respect to the front table to “move a sheet material article to be trimmed on the front table and into engagement with a backstop” as claimed in claim 1 of the present application since the pusher element and the table would always be moving at the same speed.

In other words, Bryson cannot meet all of the limitations of claim 1: if the pusher element and front table move at the same speed for all time, then the pusher element cannot move with respect to the front table to move the sheet material article into engagement with a backstop. If the pusher element and the front table do not move at the same speed for some time (which they do not) then Bryson provides no disclosure that the driver moves at the same speed for the time periods as claimed in claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested.

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New claim 21

New claim 21 has been added to further recite that the driver moves the pusher at a different speed for some times, as shown for example in Fig. 12.

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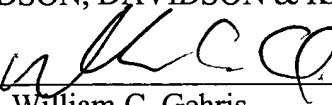
CONCLUSION

The present application is respectfully submitted as being in condition for allowance and applicants respectfully request such action.

Respectfully submitted,

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